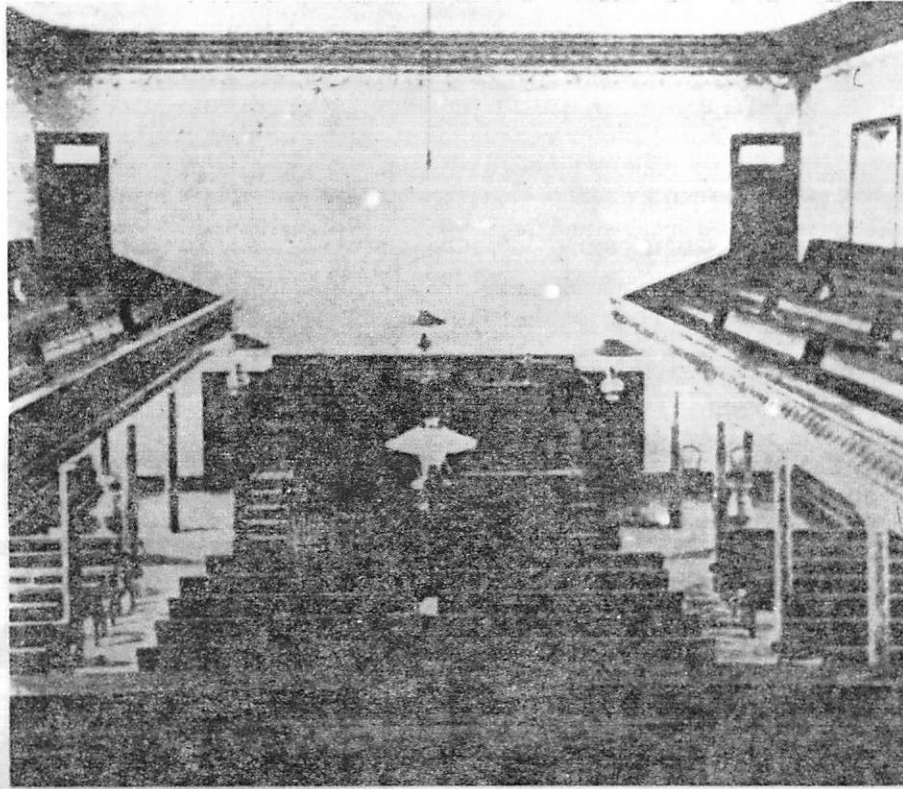


for dedication tomorrow. Conference visitors are expected to clean their feet before entering the building and leave their knives and pencils and tobacco at home."

Then in the "Wave" issue of May 11, 1889, the following was reported:



Interior of the Wasatch Stake House as it was originally built. The floor was scrubbed and bleached with home made soap. Home made carpets were laid down the aisles. Coal oil lamps hanging from the ceiling furnished light. Pot bellied stoves in each of the four corners. There were balconies on both sides and the end. Posts on either side to support the gallery which had three tiers of seats on different elevations. The stand had three elevations of seats—the top row was always occupied by the stake presidency and the general authorities. The middle row by the high council and the lower row by the ward bishops.

"The greatest number of people ever congregated in Heber at one time was at the dedication of the Stake House last Sunday and Monday. There were 1300 people in the Stake House on Sunday afternoon and it was stated 200 more could be comfortably seated."

The original plan of the building had an entrance foyer much as it is now, with steps leading into the front gallery. A large assembly room,

with the "stand" at the west end, made up the main part of the building. The stand consisted of three elevations of seats. The top seats were reserved for the stake presidency and general authorities. On the middle row of seats were members of the stake high council, while bishops sat on the third row of seats. On each row of seats was a pulpit. Galleries were on the end, north and south sides, with four elevations of seats.

Through the east gallery was an entrance that led up winding steps to the tower where a large bell was hung. This bell was rung each Sunday morning at 9:30 to remind the Saints of Sunday School, and again at 1:30 p.m. to remind them of Sacrament meeting. The bell was also used as a fire alarm or for any other important circumstance that warranted a gathering of the people. For funerals the bell was very slowly tolled as the cortege approached the stake house.

From the diary of Elizabeth Lindsay comes the following description of the building's heating system:

"The four big 'pot bellied' stoves were very important. Uncle Jessie Bond, the janitor for 30 years, went religiously from one to the other stirring them noisily and replenishing the coal and then would disappear into the back room to see about the fire there. If the stirrings came in the middle of a solo or at the climax of a great sermon it made no difference. President Hatch who had traveled outside the state used to tell us about heating plants which might be installed to take the place of these stoves and it sounded fantastic to us."

A definite seating arrangement was prescribed for the building, with men on the south side, women on the north side, ladies with babies around the stoves in the corners and mixed couples in the center. The four stoves stood in the four corners of the building, with considerable space reserved for them.

At the rear, or west end of the building was a smaller meeting room, always called the "back room." Groups such as the Relief Society, Primary or MIA met in this room. Above this back room was a room called the "circle room" where the high council and stake presidency met to hold their prayer circles.

In the main assembly room the pulpit on the lower row of seats on the stand extended the full width of the stand. This was used for the Sacrament service. Beautiful silver urns, 16 to 18 inches tall were carried by the Deacons down the aisles as they watched very closely to see when it was necessary to refill the large silver cup that was passed from person to person along the benches. The silver was always highly polished for the sacrament and the white linen clothes were always freshly laundered and pressed without a wrinkle.

The red sandstone "Stake House" or Stake Tabernacle as it has come to be called, was the crowning achievement in Church buildings in the county up to that time and is still being used in 1961 as the center of all stake activities. In 1929 the large cottonwood trees on the grounds